THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME February 18 2009

Increase productivity and add value to our raw coffee," **Says COMESA SG**



COMESA SG with Rwandese Prime Minister, Ministers and Heads of delegations

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretary General Sindiso Ngwenya has called upon the region to increase productivity and add value to raw coffee, so as to benefit fully in the value chain.

Speaking at the official opening of the sixth Eastern Africa Fine Coffee Association (EAFCA) conference and exhibition held on February 12 2008 in Rwanda, Mr. Ngwenya pointed out that intra-COMESA trade in raw coffee stood at US\$72 million in 2007, a drop from US\$103 million the previous year, as compared to processed coffee which stood at US\$0.13 million, a decrease of US\$0.3 from the previous year.

The processed coffee in 2007 represents about 0.2% of the raw coffee exports. Similarly on the extra-COMESA trade, processed coffee was US\$6.0 million representing about 0.7% of the raw coffee exports which were pegged at US\$904.5 million.

As regards raw coffee, Mr. Ngwenya noted that intra-COMESA trade in 2007 exports of raw coffee constituted US\$60 million (81%) and imports made US\$13million (17%). Of the extra COMESA trade, US\$890 million were exports (98.4%) and US\$ 14 million (1.5%) were imports.

He further noted that the figures showed that imports have played an insignificant role in the coffee industry.

Mr. Ngwenya said the share of extra-COMESA raw and processed coffee exports in global trade, in 2006, were a low 5% and 3.3 % respectively, illustrating that there is scope for increasing the region's coffee exports.

"The challenge therefore, is to increase productivity and add value to our raw coffee, especially given that EAFCA produces only about 15% of the specialty coffee of the world," said Mr. Ngwenya. "Our aim should be for COMESA to become a global player in the coffee industry. With a population of over 400 million, COMESA offers a potentially vibrant coffee market within the region."

Mr. Ngwenya challenged the gathering to add value to coffee particularly in form of packaging and marketing, noting that these can easily increase the value by up to 60%.

The annual EAFCA conference is a platform where coffee farmers in the region interact with coffee dealers, processors and policy makers to chart the best way forward for the fine coffee sector in the region. EAFCA, a specialized institution of COMESA, enjoys membership of national coffee associations from eleven countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.

This year's event was officially opened by Rwandan Prime Minister, Hon. Bernard Makuza, who represented President Paul Kagame. At the opening of the conference, Hon. Makuza stressed that the Rwandan government was optimistic that the function would be significant in developing the coffee sector in Rwanda and the region in general.

AFSTA calls for more involvement in **COMESA** business

frican Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) president. Marcel Kanungwe has equested COMESA to ensure that private sector seed stakeholders epresented by his organization play a meaningful role in matters of the OMESA Business Council and COMESA's CAADP regional and national rocesses.

- Ir. Kanungwe said this when he visited the COMESA Secretariat on ebruary 13 2009 and paid a courtesy call on Assistant Secretary General P), Steven Karangizi. He also held a meeting with COMESA's agricultural
- Ir. Kanungwe noted during his visit that the basis of agricultural evelopment was a vibrant seed sector. In this regard, he requested OMESA to ensure that private sector seed stakeholders represented by FSTA played a meaningful role in matters of the COMESA Business council and COMESA's CAADP regional and national processes.

leanwhile, COMESA, Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) and East African Seed Committee ASCOM) have agreed to collaborate in, spearheading seed sector ationalization and harmonization; biotechnology and bio-safety capacity uilding in the region and developing cassava and sweet potato markets in

CSOs re-organise for effective TerrAfrica participation

African Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are re organising for effective and full participation in the TerrAfrica Sustainable Land Management (SLM) initiative.

TerrAfrica is a multi-partner initiative for scaling up effective and efficient country-driven SLM practices in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). It is based on the understanding that land, the productive base of most households in SSA, is increasingly coming under threat from various barriers and bottlenecks ranging from institutional, knowledge management, sectoral, policy, financial and implementation barriers.

The TerrAfrica partnership recognises the importance of CSOs in championing the cause of SLM, hence the efforts being made to ensure their effective and efficient participation in the TerrAfrica SLM initiative. In this regard, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is leading the process to facilitate CSO engagement in SLM and TerrAfrica and it is within this context that the CSOs in Africa have now embarked on a path to re-organise themselves to actively participate in this noble cause.

This re-organisation comes as a follow up to the consultations amongst NGOs attending the COP7 in Madrid in September 2007, where they agreed to reinvigorate the RIOD network for coordination of their SLM activities and as a structure through which their participation in the TerrAfrica partnership will be based. With the help of UNDP, the CSOs have to date, appointed a taskforce for this purpose. Progress to date also includes the establishment of a CSO Special Advisory Group (SAG) to establish a CSO work programme based on the comparative advantage they have in working with communities on SLM, within the context of the TerrAfrica initiative. To this end, the SAG is facilitating the development of the CSO SLM visioning exercise.

The CSOs have now identified and agreed on four pilot countries for a CSO SLM visioning exercise, namely Uganda, Lesotho, Cameron and Kenya.

The visioning exercise is a step towards development of a collective vision for CSO SLM vision at regional level, culminating in a CSO SLM vision paper.

Source: NEPAD Secretariat



Status of CAADP implementation in COMESA

uring 2008, COMESA launched the CAADP Roundtable rocess in Sudan and in Ethiopia bringing the total number of puntries implementing the Roundtable Analytical Process to lentify key growth drivers to 17. These are Rwanda, Malawi, ambia, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Burundi, Seychelles, jibouti, Malagasy, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Comoros, Egypt, lauritius, Swaziland and Democratic Republic of the Congo DRC).